Meshtastic User Manual – Panasonic Toughpad FZ-M11.

1. How to Start Meshtastic
   - Open the Terminal
   - Type this command and press Enter:
     source ~/meshtastic-env/bin/activate
   - You will see (meshtastic-env) at the start of your prompt when it is active
2. Setting Your Name (Do This Once)
   - Set your full displayed name:
     meshtastic --setlong "Trenchpad"
   - Set a short name (maximum 4 characters):
     meshtastic --setshort "TRCH"
3. Most Useful Commands
   - Check your device status:
     meshtastic --info
   - List all devices (nodes) in range:
     meshtastic --nodes
   - Send a message to everyone (broadcast):
     meshtastic --sendtext "Your message here"
   - Send a message to a specific device:
     meshtastic --sendtext "Your message" --dest N1234
     (replace N1234 with the actual short name from the nodes list)
4. Quick Shortcuts (Aliases)
   - mtsend "your message" → Send a broadcast message
   - mtinfo → Show device info
   - mtnodes → Show all nodes in range
5. Running in Background (Recommended)
   - Start background service (so you receive messages even if terminal is closed):
     meshtasticd
   - Stop background service:
     sudo systemctl stop meshtasticd
6. Ending a Session
   - Deactivate the virtual environment when finished:
     deactivate
7. Full Quick Workflow Example
   - source ~/meshtastic-env/bin/activate
   - meshtastic --setlong "Trenchpad"
   - meshtastic --setshort "TRCH"
   - mtnodes
   - mtsend "Test message from FZ-M1"
   - deactivate

8. Updating Meshtastic Later

- source ~/meshtastic-env/bin/activate
- pip install --upgrade meshtastic

9. Tips

- Always plug in the Meshtastic dongle before activating the environment
- Use the background daemon (meshtasticd) for continuous operation
- Messages are end-to-end encrypted by default
- Keep the tablet in a location with good sky view for better range